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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/022,571

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Edward E. Lipscomb

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06/15/2004

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EXAMINER

TSAI, CAROL S W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2857

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/022,571

Applicant(s)

LIPSCOMB ET AL.

Examiner

Carol S Tsai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 6 are duplicate.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,530,373 to Gibson et al.

With respect to claims 1, 8, and 15, Gibson et al. disclose a digital multimeter adapter for a portable electronic device, comprising: a module (device under test (DUT) 14 shown on Fig. 1) adapted to interface with a hardware interface port of a portable electronic device (portable, electronic test instrument 10 shown on Fig. 1) having a processor (microprocessor 18 shown on Fig. 1) and a display (display 28 shown on Fig. 2), the module including a computer program memory (waveform memory 26 shown on Fig. 2), the memory storing computer program instructions thereon to direct the processor to perform the steps of: collecting data representative of an electrical signal from an external source (see Figs. 1-3 and col. 5, line 37 to col. 7, line 30);

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and displaying the data on the display in a digital format representing a characteristic of the signal (see col. 6, lines 34-53 and col. 5, lines 37-40).

As to claims 2 and 12, Gibson et al. also disclose the characteristic comprising voltage, current, or resistance (see col. 5, lines 37-40).

As to claims 3, 9, 16, and 17, Gibson et al. also disclose a database of model signal values and displaying a model signal value from the database on the display (see Figs. 10 and 11 and col. 11, line 63 to col. 13, line 14).

As to claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 18, and 19, Gibson et al. also disclose a database of collected signal value data and directing the processor to store the data representative of the signal in the database of collected signal value data (see Figs. 2-8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibson et al. in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,508,607 to Gibson.

As noted above, with respect to claims 6 and 13, Gibson et al. disclose the claimed invention, except for providing an electronic device input that, when activated by a user, allows the user to adjust the characteristic to be displayed on the display/adjusting the characteristic being displayed on a setup screen.

Gibson teach providing an electronic device input that, when activated by a user, allows the user to adjust the characteristic to be displayed on the display/adjusting the characteristic being displayed on a setup screen (see col. 8, lines 35-53 and col. 10, lines 49-53).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gibson et al.'s method to include providing an electronic device input that, when activated by a user, allows the user to adjust the characteristic to be displayed on the display/adjusting the characteristic being displayed on a setup screen, as taught by Gibson, in order that a desired frequency of a test stimulus signal can be selected to display (see col. 2, lines 3-4).

As to claims 7, 14, and 20, Gibson et al. do not disclose a language database containing data representative of words in a plurality of languages.

Gibson teaches a language database containing data representative of words in a plurality of languages (see col. 5, lines 21-46).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gibson et al.'s method to include a language database containing data representative of words in a plurality of languages, as taught by Gibson, in order that text or numeric information such as meter operating mode, scaling, etc. can be displayed above or graphical portion of the display (see col. 5, lines 35-37).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Raichle et al. disclose an apparatus and method for determining pressure and vacuum comprising an adapter that links to a digital tester.

Lipscomb et al. disclose an oscilloscope adapter for a portable electronic device including a hardware interface connector and a computer program memory.

Swift disclose an rms converter accommodating incoming signals of large crest factor by using an amplifier having a transfer function of non-uniform slope.

Nelson et al. disclose an adapter suitable for use with a handheld multimeter and a thermocouple probe containing a temperature sensor and input connectors suitable for mating with standard thermocouple probes.

Irregger et al. disclose a method for computer-aided measurement and testing of electrical circuits, and a test rig for carrying out such method, wherein the measurement and control tasks carried out by computer-aided measurement and test equipment during a test process, controlled by test software, for electrical circuits, are split into a data-relevant element, which contains test specification data and test instruction data, and a control-relevant test equipment driver section.

Frankovitch, Jr. et al. disclose a measuring device displaying waveforms representative of electrical signals and including a selector, at least one input terminal, and a graphical display.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. W. Tsai whose telephone number is (571) 272-2224.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If

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attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax number for TC 2800 is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2800 receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1585 or (571) 272-2800.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 2800 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office actions directly into the Group at (703) 872-9306. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 2800 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.



Carol S. W. Tsai
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2857

06/08/04